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CIA Used NSA Staff For Spying

By Gerald Grant
Washington Post Staff Writer

The CIA provided up to 80 per cent of the National Student Association's budget and used its officers and staff in direct intelligence gathering activities, the organization's supervisory board confirmed last night.

After three days of closed-door meetings the student group's national supervisory board gave its first official report of the extent of the CIA penetration of the student organization.

Samuel W. Brown, a Harvard Divinity School student who was chairman of the board's investigation, said:

• About 20 foundations and individuals served as conduits of CIA funds to the student organization.

• Until January, 1966, the CIA obtained draft deferments for the officers and full-time NSA staff members.

• CIA agents were consulted about staff appointments and exercised "subtle influence" over the policies of the NSA group.

• NSA staffers gathered foreign student leaders and gave CIA "assessments of the political situation among student organizations abroad."

Meanwhile, CIA supporters on Capitol Hill marshalled support for an attempt to justify the Agency's penetration of the student group.

Chairman L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.) and Rep. William H. Bates (R-Mass.), the ranking members of the House Armed Services Committee, issued a statement in which they said of the action: "Espionage was not involved—the survival of freedom was."

In disclosing some of the inside dealings with the CIA, Brown said the most "horrible and disgusting" aspect of the relationship was the way the CIA "duped and trapped" student leaders into cooperating with the agency.

According to Brown, the CIA recruited new student leaders after they had been student officers who were already cooperating with CIA. But prior to revealing the

ance papers threatening them with 20-year jail sentences if they disclosed what they were about to be told.

Then they were told and were "trapped," said Brown.

Why did the students sign the agreement? Because, Brown related, they were informed that there was certain classified information they

needed to know in order to handle overseas assignments for the NSA. In order to gain access to such top-secret information, students were asked to sign the National Security Agreement.

This kind of trickery was "the real horror of the CIA involvement with NSA," Brown said.

After being recruited, Brown said, some student leaders received under-the-table salary supplements of up to \$3500 a year. Others received fellowships after they left their posts.

Brown said the supervisory board had "no intention of dissolving" the NSA because of the disclosure of its 15-year financial involvement with the CIA.

But he announced the immediate suspension of the credentials of representatives of the NSA abroad until they could be cleared of any involvement with the CIA.

In addition, the board froze all funds that were in accounts coming from CIA conduits. The last known trans-

mittal of CIA funds was made

in December, 1966, Brown said. The student organization will seek to terminate its CIA-financed lease for its headquarters building at 2115 S st. nw., Brown added. If it cannot do so, it will move out, he declared.

Brown praised the current officers of the organization, whom he said had gone through "agony" in trying to break away from the CIA. W. Eugene Groves, the president, and other officers have the complete confidence of the board, Brown said.

Brown identified the following as conduits of CIA funds: The Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs, the Catherwood Foundation, San Jacinto Foundation, Sidney and Esther Rabb Foundation, and the R. E. Smith Foundation.

Brown said there were at least 15 other persons or organizations between for the CIA. But he declined to name them. The NSA's relationship with

CIA was then at least to 1952, and there is some evidence that it began prior to that date, he said. CIA support ranged from 40 to 80 per cent of the NSA's annual budget over that period, Brown added.

At no time, asserted Brown, was the CIA penetration "justified." The U.S. Government owes an "enormous apology to the National Student Association, its officers and staff and to an entire generation using NSA in this manner," Brown concluded.

In their statement, Reps. Rivers and Bates said the CIA would have failed in its duty if it had not made it possible for NSA members to combat Communist efforts to take over into national youth forums.

Rivers and Bates met with newsmen after the Armed Services subcommittee which deals with CIA affairs had held a closed-door meeting with Richard Helms, the Agency's director, and other officials. The Congressmen are among those who last year blocked moves to broaden Congressional supervision of the CIA.

They said the link between the Agency and the NSA had been known to every Administration since 1952 and known to the Armed Services subcommittee for several years.

Their praise was echoed by conservative Sen. John G. Tower (R-Tex.) in remarks to

the Young Republican Leadership Conference.

"For myself, I can see no reason why the United States should apologize for helping send students to international conferences as voices of the free world," Towers said.

But Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee, said the "whole thing is tragic as well as comical" in view of last year's efforts to set up a select committee to oversee the CIA.

Calling for "tighter supervision" of the Agency, Fulbright added: "It is incredible that the President didn't know about it. I certainly didn't know about it."

The Senator also said that the CIA had assured him that it had not "secretly subsidized or used" Fulbright scholars who were studying abroad.

At the State Department, it was announced that the three-man panel President Johnson appointed Wednesday to make "a careful review of any Government activities" that could endanger "them integrity and independence of the education community" had begun its deliberations.

The panel is headed by Acting Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and includes Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare John W. Gardner and Director

Department press spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said the meeting was "both an effort to clarify the present situation and to suggest sensible courses of future action."

In another development, Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, the Selective Service Director, said in an interview with the Associated Press that he remembers "talking to some NSA men" but added that he did not recall what they said.

He was commenting on an article in Ramparts Magazine which said that NSA officials were given draft deferments for "an occupation vital to the national interest."

"I don't think you would ever find me saying I am going to take care of somebody," Hershey said.

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